

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

IGA-01 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 IO-10 /088 W

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R 170917Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0679

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1854

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, NG

SUBJECT: NIGER PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO COTONOU

REF: COTONOU 627

1. ACCOUNT OF PRESIDENTS KEREKOU-KOUNTCHE MEETING GIVEN BY NIGER REP OUSSEINE (REFTEL) GENERALLY CONFIRMED DURING CONVERSATION MAY 15 WITH SECRETARY GENERAL MIN OF FOREIGN AFFIARS TIEKOURA. MINOR DIVERGENCE NOTED WAS TIEKOURA'S VIEW THAT MOST SERIOUS SHORTAGE CURRENTLY FACING NIGER WAS POL RATHER THAN FOODSTUFFS OR RELIEF SUPPLIES.

2. TIEKOURA SAID NUMBER GON OFFICIALS HAD LONG BEEN RECOMMENDING PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTAION ON MATTER OF RAILROAD SINCE ALL GON EFFORTS HERETOFORE TO RESOLVE PROBLEM AT LOWER LEVELS HAD FAILED. KOUNTCHE HESITATED LONG TIME SINCE HE WANTED GIVE DAHOMEANS FULL OPPORTUNITY RECTIFY SITUATION. HE DECIDED BECOME
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PERSONALLY INVOLEVED ONLY AFTER HE CONVINCED DAHOMEANS

NOT REALLY MAKING EFFORT AND IN FACT HAVE BEEN MAKING
SITUATION WORSE IN RECENT WEEKS.

3. TIEKOURA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH
VAGUE RESPONSES OF DW OMEANS EITHER TO REQUEST FOR GREATER
SHARE OF RAIL TRANSPORT CAPACITY OR TO SUGGESTION THAT
TRUCKS BE USED TO CARRY GOODS DIRECTLY FROM COTONOU
(INSTEAD OF FROM RAIL HEAD AT PARAKOU AS IS NOW CASE).

4. HE SAID PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE PLANNED ATTEND ECOWAS MEETING
LAGOS END OF MONTH AND WOULD RAISE MATTER AGAIN WITH KEREKOU
IF DAHOMAEAN PERFORMANCE DID NOT IMPROVE. HE ADMITTED HOWEVER,
THAT NIGER DID NOT HAVE MUCH LEVERAGE IN THIS SITUATION AND
HAD TO APPEAL TO THE DAHOMEANS SENSE OF FAIRNESS AND THEIR
REPEATED EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE TO COOPERATE FOR WHATEVER THESE
WERE WORTH.BUCHE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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